Economic impact of non dispatchable generation on the cost of energy supply and on the adjustment services

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Abstract. This article presents an analysis of the economic impact of non dispatchable generation on the cost of the energy supply and on the adjustment services and aims to analyze the economic impact of the renewable generation into the Spanish production and adjustment services markets, and thus to help prospective investors in renewable generation projects to analyze the situation of the Spanish electricity market.

Keywords
Adjustment Services, Access Tariff, Feed-in Tariff, Daily Market, Intraday Market

1. Introduction

This article presents an analysis of the economic impact of non dispatchable generation on the cost of the energy supply, daily market and on the adjustment services. This analysis is developed in three parts. The first part is an analysis of the current situation in Spain that includes the electricity power demand from 1996 to 2010, how this demand was supplied by the total of energetic sources and the national energy makeup. On this basis we will make a comparative analysis between the evolution of the average monthly price of energy and:

- Energy Demand
- Hydraulic Generation
- Combined Cycle Power Plants (CCPP)
- Wind Generation

In the second part we discuss the contribution of renewable generation on so-called “access tariff” due to the influence of the feed-in tariff scheme established by Royal Decree-Law 661/2007. And finally, the third part is developed in two parts in the first one, we review the impact of increasing in 1GWh of renewable generation into the daily market and in the second one we review the impact of renewable generation in costs associated with adjustment services.

2. Analysis of the current situation in Spain

A. Energy Demand

According to Red Eléctrica de España (REE), the operator of Spain’s electricity system [1], the national electricity demand from 1996 to 2010 has grown by 68%. The Figure 1 below shows how this number was derived[2][3].

Fig. 1. Spain electricity demand from 1996 to 2010

B. National Energy Makeup

Figure 2 [2], shows the national energy makeup at 2010. The total energy generated in Spain was 288,182 GWh.
Conventional energy sources (nuclear and fossil fuel based) still dominate (56%), although there is a trend to increase the participation of renewable energies in the energy makeup and accomplish the 2020 target.

Fig. 2. 2010 National energy makeup

C. Average monthly price of energy and energy demand

The price of electricity in the Spanish electricity market depends on the price of the daily market clearing, the Intraday market clearing price, the price of the system adjustment services (technical constraints and ancillary services) and the cost of capacity payments. Figure 3[3], shows the historical behavior of the average monthly price of electrical energy and the demand for the period between January 2000 and December 2010.

Fig. 3. Historical behavior: average monthly price/demand

D. Average monthly price of energy and hydraulic generation

Coverage of demand is highly dependent on weather conditions due to the high penetration of wind energy and hydropower. Hydro generation technology affects the market price because this generation has a practically zero variable cost. Figure 4 shows the historical behavior of average monthly price of electrical energy and hydro generation between January 2000 and December 2010 [4].

Fig. 4. Historical behavior: average monthly price/Hydro

E. Average monthly price of energy and CCPP generation

The supply of natural gas has becoming a key element for the final electricity production through the combined cycles. In Spain, CCPP began operation in 2003. CCPP normally operate after nuclear, hydro and “special regime” (energy sources that use co-generation, renewable sources and waste products in facilities with rated power of no more than 50 MW). Generation with CCPP is the most expensive and hence the price trend is proportional to the energy generation by CCPP. The trend of CCPP and hydro generation is reversed because CCPP offsets the hydraulic power that is not generated in the summer; both have a seasonal trend, summer and winter. Figure 5 shows the historical behavior of average monthly price of electrical energy and CCPP generation between January 2003 and December 2010.

Fig. 5. Historical behavior: average monthly price/CCPP

F. Average monthly price of energy and wind generation

Figure 6, shows the historical behavior of average monthly price of electrical energy and wind generation, from 2003 to 2010.
3. Effect of the feed-in tariff for the renewable generation in the access tariff.

The access tariff pays for transmission and distribution services, as well as for the permanent costs of the system. This tariff is paid by the client through their Resellers, it is set by the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade, and it can be reviewed quarterly. Figure 7 [5] (Royal Decree 1164/2001, of 26 October [6]), shows the components of the access tariff.

Royal Decree 1164/2001, of 26 October also establishes the structure of the access tariff (figure 8):

The Royal Decree-Law 661/2007 [16] established the concept of feed in-tariff and fixed upper and lower limits for the market reference price and the reference feed in tariff. Figure 11 shows the behavior of the special regime feed in tariff for the period between January 2003 and December 2011. Since 2007, in Royal Decree-Law 1634/2006 appears offshore wind generation feed in tariff, which triples the average feed in tariff for onshore wind generation.
4. Impact of renewable generation

A. In daily market

In Spain the market operator (MO) handle electricity transactions for the following day through the presentation of electricity sale and purchase bids by market participants. The figure 12 [17] shows the supply and the demand curve built by MO with the daily market offers at the first hour on April 19, 2010. The curves show the bid price increasing, in the case of the sales, and decreasing, in the case of the purchases. We get the equilibrium price or the market clearing price (MCP) when the curves meet. As a result of that the quantity supplied and the quantity demanded become equal/the same.

![Fig. 12. Daily market offers at the first hour April 19, 2010](image)

Figure 13 shows the average monthly behaviour of MCP at 2010 without taking on count bids that incorporate complex conditions.

![Fig. 13. 2010 MCP monthly behavior](image)

Figure 14 shows the average monthly amount reduction in the pool by adding 1000 MW of renewable generation in every hour. This is due to the fact that renewable energy has a value of zero so that the demand curve is displaced to the right putting the MCP down.

![Fig. 14. Total amount reduction in the pool by adding 1000 MW of renewable generation](image)

B. In costs associated with adjustment services.

In Spain, adjustment services are managed by REE. In its website [18], the following definition for adjustment services can be found: "Services necessary to ensure the electricity supply under the conditions of quality, reliability and security. The adjustment services can have obligatory or optional character. These are understood as adjustment services such as the resolution of technical restrictions of the system, ancillary services and deviation management".

Adjustment services include: power-frequency regulation (primary, secondary and tertiary), the management of generation deviations and demand, voltage control of the transmission network and service restoration. Figure 15 [3] shows the impact of complementary services in the final energy price from 2003 to 2009.

![Fig. 15. Complementary services impact on the final energy price](image)

Fig.16 shows the evolution of energy involved in the secondary and tertiary regulation. The deviation management, and the real-time constraints, from 2003 to 2010.

![Fig. 16. Evolution of complementary services](image)

5. Conclusion

The electricity demand has grown 68% onstage 1996-2010, including moderation suffered by the crisis and recovery since mid-2009.

In Spain the electricity price as in any electricity market in the world depends on the cost of production and technologies that make up the generation park. That is why demand coverage is heavily dependent on atmospheric conditions because of the strong penetration of wind and Hydro generation, as it could be seen in the MCP monthly low averages (result of zero MCP).

An increase of 1000MW of renewable energies, with an almost zero variable costs and priority in the dispatch, result into a decrease in the average price of the daily
market at 82.20€ MWh which is higher than the price paid by feed-in tariff of 77.76€ MWh [19]: without application in the access tariff, the cost of the electric fares would be reduced.

References:


